

INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 1 MAR 50

COUNTRY Argentina/Brazil

SUBJECT Relations between Prestes and Peron

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INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. An Argentine Communist defense of letters written by Luis Carlos Prestes in praise of Peron has been disavowed by a Chilean Communist leader. It was previously claimed by Argentine Communist Rodolfo Ghioldi that Prestes wrote favorably about Peron's nationalistic and anti-imperialistic policy in the hope of obtaining the release of Victorio Codovilla. However, the Chilean leader pointed out that a strong rivalry has long existed between Prestes and Codovilla.
2. Prestes is reported to have long maintained that the Latin American Communist Parties should collaborate with and use nationalist movements when these are politically powerful, rather than blindly oppose them on purely ideological terms. Prestes is said to believe that such a policy would prevent the Communists from being subjected to unnecessary persecution and would be to the best interests of the Party in the long run.
3. Prestes reportedly has insisted that the Communist Party of Argentina (CPA) made a serious tactical mistake by opposing the Peron government, and believes that Codovilla should attempt to reach an understanding with Peron just as Prestes did with Getulio Vargas of Brazil.** Prestes' view is allegedly supported by the Cuban Communist leader, Blas Roca, but is opposed by Codovilla and by the present leaders of the Chilean Communist Party (PCCh).
4. While it is believed that Prestes and Peron have attempted to arrive at an understanding, Codovilla is apparently continuing his policy of opposition to Peron. However, Codovilla is reported to have lost face through Peron's recent order for his release and implied indifference toward him as a serious opponent.
5. A source in Buenos Aires reports that neither faction of the Argentine Communist Party knows of the existence of the letter which Prestes is said to have written to Peron. It is believed that the reported connection between Prestes and Codovilla may have arisen when Gonzalez Videla of Chile announced in November 1949 the discovery of an alleged plot against the government inspired by Prestes and Codovilla. This announcement coincided with the arrest of Codovilla by the Argentine police on 5 November 1949. The Buenos Aires Communist press then

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CLASSIFICATION ~~Secret~~

This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 December 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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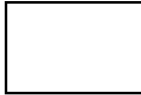


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published photographs of both Communists praising them as anti-imperialist leaders. While Codovilla was under arrest, he and the CPA received numerous letters and cables of support and adherence, protesting his imprisonment. However, the alleged letter of Prestes' to Peron was not known to the Party.

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